

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. General Remarks

Applicants respectfully request that the above amendments be entered and further request reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the remarks contained herein.

II. Disposition of the Claims

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1, 4-27, 29-34, and 36 were pending. Claims 33, 34, and 36 stand rejected. Claims 1, 4-27, 29-32 have been allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge Examiner's designation of claims 1, 4-27, 29-32 as allowable subject matter. Claims 1 and 19 have been amended herein. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments add no new matter to the application and are supported by the specification as originally filed. Claims 33, 34 and 36 have been canceled. All the above amendments are made in a good faith effort to advance the prosecution on the merits of this case.

III. Remarks Regarding Claim Objections

With respect to claims 1 and 19, the Office Action states that:

Claims 1 and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities: These claims are not completely clear as to whether the first and second seals are formed from a single elastomeric disk or separate elastomeric disks. Examiner suggests that in line 11, --each-- be added between "are" and "formed." Examiner also suggests that in line 12, --, each disk-- be added between "disk" and "having." Appropriate correction is required.

(Office Action at 2.) Applicants have amended claims 1 and 19 in accordance with the Examiners suggestions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the removal of these objections.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,935,027 issued to Heggem (hereinafter "*Heggem*"). Claims 33 and 34 have been canceled thereby rendering this rejection moot.

V. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 36 is rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Heggem* in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,965,987 to Biffle (hereinafter "*Biffle*"). Claim 36 has been canceled thereby rendering this rejection moot.

VI. No Waiver

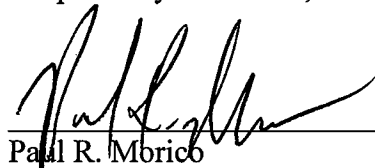
All of Applicants' arguments and amendments are without prejudice or disclaimer. Additionally, Applicants have merely discussed example distinctions from the cited references. Other distinctions may exist, and Applicants reserve the right to discuss these additional distinctions in a later Response or on Appeal, if appropriate. By not responding to additional statements made by the Examiner, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's additional statements, such as, for example, any statements relating to what would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art. The example distinction discussed by Applicants is sufficient to overcome the anticipation and obviousness rejections.

SUMMARY

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit timely notice of the same. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone, facsimile, or electronic mail.

Applicants believe that there are no fees due in association with the filing of this Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, Applicants respectfully request that the Commissioner accept this as a Petition Therefor, and direct that any additional fees be charged to Baker Botts L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 02-0383, Order Number 063718.0446.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 10, 2007